

AUGUSTA "OLD STONE" CHURCH  
FORT DEFIANCE, VIRGINIA

Augusta Co

HABS NO. 11-10

HABS  
VA.

8-FORDEF,  
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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

DISTRICT NO. 11

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
PHILIP M. STERN, DISTRICT OFFICER  
21 LAW BLDG. FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

HABS

VA

8- FORDER

OLD STONE CHURCH  
Fort Defiance, Augusta County  
Virginia

Owner: Presbyterian Church.

Date of Erection: 1747.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Stone.

Other Existing Records: See text.<sup>1</sup>

Additional Data: See following pages.

<sup>1</sup> See also the following reference :  
Lancaster, R.A., Jr., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches.

### HISTORICAL DATA

The Augusta or Old Stone Church, as it is most generally known, has a cornerstone at the righthand corner of the east front with the simple marking 1747. In the Diary of Reverend John Craig , D.D., the first pastor, we are told that the building was dedicated January 22, 1749.

According to the minutes of the session of this Presbyterian Congregation of January 2, 1848, referring to the Session House, is the statement "it was built in 1847, the hundredth year since the building of the Church".

There have been many changes made to the original building. According to tradition there was a building or Session Room on the north side of the Church, which was removed when the Session House was built one hundred years later, and the entrance to the pulpit was from the Session Room through a high door. The original roof was of wooden shingles.

In 1922 it was decided to increase the size of the Church building, retaining the old portion as a memorial. At this time the west wall was removed and the Nave extended and the Transepts and Sunday school rooms built in the present form. The architects for these changes were T. J. Collins & Son, Staunton. References: Samuel J. Collins. Diary of

John Craig, D.D., first pastor of Augusta Church 1740 to 1774. History of the Augusta Church, 1737 to 1900 by Reverend J. N. VanDevanter, published 1900.

After Braddock's defeat, this section of the country was exposed to attacks by the Indian Allies of the French. At that time Reverend John Craig fortified the Church with palisades, a deep ditch and embankment. Hence the name Fort Defiance. Reference: Colonial Churches in Virginia by Henry Irving Brock, page 88.

*Philip H. Stern*

*Reviewed 1/36, H.C.F.*